REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending.

The specification has been amended to incorporate by reference the international application from which the present application is based. The specification has been further amended to include the Article 34 amendments thereto.

The claims also have been amended to include the Article 34 amendments thereto. Multiple claim dependencies have been deleted in order to reduce the filing fee and new claims 14-22 have been added.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Parkhurst

Reg. No. 25,177

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: (202) 429-6420